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NSC BRIEFING

13 April 1968

INDONESIA

I. Lull in military activity of past couple weeks appears to have about ended and Sukarno has reiterated his call for a quick defeat of the dissident movement.

- A. Government air activity in Sumatra resumed about 3 April and Djakarta forces based on Medan are attempting to "wipe out" enemy concentrations: in Atjeh and have invaded Tapanuli, *press report fighting.*
- B. Latter may be first move in concerted effort to capture dissident strongholds of Padang and Bukittinggi. 25X1

C. [REDACTED]

Premier Djuanda has also stated govt hope is to declare revolutionary govt dissolved by 15th. 25X1

II. In Celebes, govt captured Denggala and Palu on 2 April and is now consolidating its beachhead.

- A. It has established a forward headquarters at Balikpapan, Borneo, to "conduct operations against central and north Celebes."

B. This headquarters to be shifted to Donggala as soon as possible.

IV. *Djakarta just announced Makassar airfield bombed by unidentified two-engine plane early morning 13 April - slight damage*

III. Sumatran dissidents have expressed pessimism over military

situation, but are making plans for defense of Padang-Bukittinggi area.

A. As diversionary movement, Sumatran dissident commander Colonel Simbolon has ordered dissident troops in North Sumatra to initiate probing action in Medan area just prior to 15 April.

B. Dissidents still hope Moslem rebels in Atjeh, who have been fighting for local autonomy for five years, will coordinate action with them and launch attack on Medan from north.

IV. Counterrevolutionary activity continues within Central Sumatra.

A. Unsuccessful assassination attempt on Sjafraddin and Harahap, dissident prime minister and defense minister respectively, on 8 April, may have been instigated by Djakarta.

C. Djakarta claims troops under a battalion commander and former Chief of police who defected from Padang movement are now engaged in guerrilla activity against Padang followers.

- V. Broadcast from Manado, capital of North Celebes, announced on 25X1
9 April appointment of Colonel Kawilarang, former military attache
in US, as commander in chief of dissident forces, Kawilarang
has not yet announced acceptance.
- A. Also announced appointment of two former Indonesian air force
officers as leaders of revolutionary air force.
- VI. Meanwhile, recent statements by Lt. Col. Barlian in South Sumatra
have emphasized national unity rather than local autonomy,
indicating swing toward Djakarta.
- VII. Djakarta officials are making special effort to curry favor with
US and to allay fears of growing Communist influence in Indonesia,
but chief motive is desire to stop reported assistance to dissidents.
- A. Recent anti-leftist measures by government, however, appear
little more than gestures and unlikely to hamper seriously
growing strength or operations of Communist Party.
- B. These measures include temporary closure of leftist daily,
Sin Po and usual restrictions on May Day celebrations have been
made more stringent.
- VIII. Djakarta government continues to receive offers of economic and
military assistance from bloc countries and Yugoslavia.

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- B. Soviets and Czechs have recently offered assistance in atomic development and East Germany has offered economic and technical aid.**
- C. Poland has also offered to train merchant marine personnel, and Yugoslavia has proffered training of naval officers and paratroops.**

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